

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 NSCE-00 USIE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 PA-02 L-03 /095 W
-----059673 101933Z /50

O R 101837Z MAR 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6665
DEPARTMENT TREASURY NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME

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USEEC

USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, EFIN, GW, US
SUBJECT: FRG SPOKESMEN COMMENT ON USG/FRG FINANCIAL
DISCUSSIONS

1. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS CONTAIN AN INFORMAL
EMBASSY TRANSLATION AND DIGEST OF REMARKS MADE BY FRG
SPOKESMEN IN THE MARCH 10 PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE FRG FINANCE MINISTRY
CONFIRMED THAT HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE FRG AND USG WILL
BE IN CONTACT THIS WEEKEND ON QUESTIONS CONCERNING
CURRENCY AND GROWTH. THE SPOKESMAN SAID, "ACCORDING
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TO AMERICAN INFORMATION WHICH WAS GIVEN LAST NIGHT
AFTER MR. CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE, DEPUTY SECRETARY
SOLOMON AND STATE SECRETARY LAHNSTEIN OF THE FINANCE
MINISTRY ARE INVOLVED (IN THIS CONTACT)."

3. ASKED ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE TELEPHONE CON-
VERSATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE CHANCELLOR,

THE FRG SPOKESMAN (GRUENEWALD) DECLINED TO GIVE ANY DETAILS. HE SAID, "THIS WAS A TELEPHONE DISCUSSION BETWEEN LEADERS ABOUT WHICH BOTH SIDES DO NOT WISH TO GIVE ANY MORE INFORMATION THAN THEY HAVE ALREADY GIVEN. I AM NOT ABLE TO GIVE MORE INFORMATION WITHOUT ASKING THE AMERICAN SIDE. I ASK THAT YOU UNDERSTAND MY POSITION."

4. ASKED WHAT DATE HAD BEEN AGREED FOR A MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, GRUENEWALD REPLIED, "NOTHING HAS BEEN FIRMLY SETTLED BUT THE CHANCELLOR HAS TOLD THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT THAT HE WILL BE AT THE NATO SESSION IN WASHINGTON. WE HAVE YET TO WORK OUT WHETHER THERE WILL BE A MEETING THERE. IN ANY CASE, THE CHANCELLOR WILL BE THERE AND THERE WOULD BE A POSSIBILITY FOR A MEETING IF BOTH SIDES CAN WORK THIS OUT IN VIEW OF THEIR TIME PRESSURES AND SCHEDULES."

5. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTIONS, THE SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CONTACTS FOR SOME TIME BETWEEN HIGH USG OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THERE IS THE INTENTION TO CONTINUE THIS DIALOGUE AND, IN THE EVENT THERE IS A RESULT, TO ANNOUNCE THIS RESULT PUBLICLY.

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6. ASKED ABOUT THE CONTACTS THIS WEEKEND, GRUENEWALD SAID, "THE PARTICULAR ASPECT TO THE CONTACTS THIS WEEKEND IS THAT FOR SOME TIME THERE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSIONS AND THAT THERE IS THE HOPE THAT THESE

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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DISCUSSIONS WILL LEAD TO A CERTAIN RESULT THIS
WEEKEND."

7. GRUENEWALD SAID THAT THE TELEPHONE DISCUSSION
BETWEEN CARTER AND SCHMIDT YESTERDAY LASTED A QUARTER
HOUR. HE ADDED, "SEVERAL SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED IN
THIS TALK. AFTER THE VISIT OF THE AMERICAN SECRETARY
OF TREASURY BLUMENTHAL, I LAID OUT FOR YOU THE
DIFFERENCES OF VIEW ON ECONOMIC STIMULATION POLICY...
AND I CAN REFER TO WHAT I SAID THEN. THERE HAS BEEN
NO CHANGE IN THE SITUATION THAT AGREEMENT IN ALL
QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE ECONOMY AND THE WORLD ECONOMY
AND CURRENCY QUESTIONS IS VERY EXTENSIVE."

8. ASKED TO EVALUATE THE SITUATION SINCE RAMBOUILLET,
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GRUENEWALD REPLIED, "TREMENDOUS PROGRESS HAS
BEEN MADE IN THAT IN THE WAKE OF RAMBOUILLET, PUERTO
RICO AND DOWNING STREET 10, NOT ONE OF THE INVOLVED
STATES HAS RESORTED TO PROTECTIONIST MEASURES OF A
SIGNIFICANT KIND. THIS IS IMPRESSIVE PROGRESS WHEN
YOU RECALL THE REACTIONS OF STATES IN THE 1930'S.
SECONDLY, UNTIL LAST FALL WE WERE ABLE IN MANY AREAS
TO KEEP OUR EXCHANGE MARKETS FREE FROM 'DISORDERLY
MARKET CONDITIONS' (HE USED THE ENGLISH PHRASE). I
DO NOT HESITATE TO REGARD THIS AS A CONSIDERABLE
SUCCESS. ALL SEVEN MEMBER STATES HAVE COME TO
COMPATIBLE VIEWS ON THE NECESSITY OF WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC
COOPERATION, COORDINATION OF STIMULATIVE
MEASURES AND COLLABORATION IN THE CURRENCY FIELD. THIS
TOO IS A CONSIDERABLE STEP FORWARD COMPARED TO THE

SITUATION OF THE 1930'S. WITHOUT BEING EFFUSIVE, I
CAN GIVE A VERY POSITIVE ASSESSMENT OF THIS."
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